



Western South Dakota Outdoor Report

Wildlife Division Region 1
December 12, 2014



Region 1 Wildlife Report

(Lawrence, Butte, Harding, Perkins, Meade & Ziebach)

Reporting Officer: DCOS Apland, WCO's Eastman, Mutschler, Fees & Hein

Fishing Report:

Lawrence County –Fishing activity has slowed down as we transition to the ice fishing season. Ice is forming on Hills lakes, foot access on Iron Creek/Roubaix. Coxes/Mirror lakes still have open water.

Butte County – Anglers fishing Orman have been scarce due to the recent cold weather. As the ice forms the activity will slow. Please keep a safety mind-set while stepping on the ice in the upcoming weeks. Help us keep the aquatic nuisance out of our lakes!

Perkins County – Ice is just forming on Shadehill, Ice on smaller dams – 5-8 inches.

Meade County – Ice forming on Bear Butte, ice conditions marginal. Ice forming on all area Dams, 4-5 inches of ice on Howes, small perch being caught.

Ziebach – Anglers reports have been limited in recent weeks.

DATE: 12/5/2014

North District

Hunting Report:

- Firearm season is closed.
- West River Firearm Deer is closed.
- Archery deer season is open and although deer numbers are down throughout most of western SD hunters can still have a quality archery hunting experience. With the recent cold temperatures the activity has increased. In some of the prairie areas the hunters have been reporting that the deer are starting the rut. In the farm countries of NW South Dakota more whitetail deer are becoming visible as the corn is coming out. Remember to respect the land, landowners, and wildlife by following rules and taking good ethical shots.
- The Elk Prairie Units Have opened back up for both Cow and any elk hunters.
- Pheasant season is open and hunters have been reporting a much better hunt this year than last. With the harvesting of the corn fields in Perkins County more pheasants are being seen. Most hunters are harvesting between 1 and 2 birds on average in Perkins County and 1 bird for Ziebach County.
- Grouse numbers have been good and hunter response has been positive. Hunters have to put their walking shoes on to get birds out from all the cover but positive reports have come out of the field. Ziebach Co. has a few good pockets of pheasants that provide a good hunting opportunity.
- Waterfowl season is still going strong. Perkins County is reporting large numbers of Geese and Ducks congregating on Shadehill, most other areas reporting waterfowl numbers low.
- Turkey hunters in the Perkins County area are advised to Call local Conservation Officer Keith Mutschler if looking for an area to hunt, to help deal with some ongoing depredation issues.

Things to Remember:

- The Black Hills

- Backcountry roads when wet are a mess. Please avoid tearing up roads and private driveways when possible.
- Hunters please remember baiting wildlife for the purpose of hunting is illegal. Step up to the challenge, don't bait.
- All hunters should review recent regulation updates before entering the field.
- Land locked public land can be accessed by section line rights-of-way, but it is always best to ask landowners permission before accessing such lands.
- With the bobcat season opening soon, trappers and hunters are encouraged to review the regulations and new season dates.

Check GFP website for the many other planned events and classes for your area.

the cover but **Furbearing Report:**

- Over the last couple weeks I have received calls regarding some trap theft in the Perkins county area. People need to remember that it is illegal to tamper with or steal someone's animals or traps.



Western Prairie Lake and dams:

Fishing has been slow.

Please read the Western Lakes Regulations when fishing due to the changes of limits and sizes of fish in each lake.

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Check GFP website for the many other planned events and classes for your area.

Game:



Pheasant and grouse are now bunched up with the continuing cold weather and snow. Hunters should target slough area and CRP near crops to find birds. Upland bird numbers seem to be better than what was thought. Next year will be a good year if winter and spring go well. Hunter can continue to pursue pheasants, grouse and partridge until January 4, 2015

Thank you for exercising fair chase hunting practices; securing permission to hunt on private property and helping to police our hunting heritage. Officers this fall have received handfulls of great calls regarding illegal hunting issues including baiting big game, shooting from motor vehicles, shooting from public roads, and failure to tag big game. Thank you for your support and observations.

If you witness hunting violations, you may choose to remain anonymous and assist officers by calling the TIPS hotline. The number is printed on the front cover of the 2014 fishing and hunting handbooks. Do your best to collect the license number of the vehicle involved? Your call will assist officers with making contact with the individuals involved and changing

their future hunting behavior. Illegal hunting behavior is destructive to the future of our hunting heritage.

Waterfowl:

The high plains duck and unit 2 Canada Goose season is currently open. Waterfowl hunting opportunities are limited in the central west river zone.

Region 1 Wildlife Report

District

(SE Lawrence, S Meade, C Pennington, E Pennington, Haakon, N Jackson, NE Custer)

Reporting Officer: WCO's Brainard, Edwards, Geigle, Keeton, Thomsen Region 1 Wildlife Report

District

(SE Lawrence, S Meade, C Pennington, E Pennington, Haakon, N Jackson, NE Custer)

Reporting Officer: WCO's Brainard, Edwards, Geigle, Keeton, Thomsen

DATE: 12/03/2014

Central DCOS McCormick

Fishing Activity: Western South Dakota

Black Hills area lakes and streams:

Pactola Lake still has a portion of open water. Sheridan Lake is completely frozen over and ice anglers are fishing near SD Hwy 385 (ice depth approximately 6 inches near the fishing pier). However, ATV use is not recommended at this time. Small ponds have ice cover and ice anglers have been fishing small ponds in the central district. Several small dams such as New Underwood, Curlew, Wall and Lake Waggoner offer ice fishing opportunities.



Exercise caution. Practice Safety! Ice anglers should be cognizant of ice depths before venturing onto a frozen body of water. Water movement, vegetation and snow cover will cause ice thicknesses to be extremely variable, especially during

above normal temperatures. Like all outdoor activities, ice anglers must assume personal responsibility for their own safety.

Ice-Thickness Guidelines for Anglers

Less than four inches of ice - Stay off!

Four to six inches - Ice fishing via foot travel in single-file lines should be safe, assuming the ice is clear and clean of snow.

Six to 12 inches - Snowmobiles and ATVs can travel safely on good ice that is at least six inches thick.

Twelve to 16 inches – Small cars and pickups can venture onto the ice once it is a foot or more thick. However, anglers are generally encouraged to avoid driving on ice that is less than 16 inches thick.

More than 16 inches – Generally, a medium-sized car or mid-sized pickup can travel safely on good, clear, solid ice.



Wildlife:

Elk:

Antlerless elk season opened and will run December 1-15. Elk hunters need to be aware that only antlerless elk tags are valid during the December hunt. Wounding loss is a concern during the December season as elk are in larger herds. Hunters need to be cognizant of pass through shots as well as being certain if multiple shots are fired, they are at the same elk.

Deer:

Archery, youth, and muzzleloader deer seasons are currently open. The Black Hills and west river rifle deer seasons closed on Sunday, November 30th. Hunters are reminded that Antlerless Muzzleloader (MZD-LM2) and Antlerless Archery (ARD-LM1) tags are not valid in the Black Hills fire protection district and for most areas out west on the prairie except for a few counties. Please refer to the 2014 deer application for open units with the LM tags. It has been a good year for many sportsmen and unique in that licensed hunters have had fewer hunters to share the resource and landscape with, reducing competition.

	Canadas	Duch
NE	1	1
NW	0	0
SE	1	1
SW	0	0

Please remember to pick up your copy of the 2014 Hunting Handbook and read up on new changes for this year. Also, the 2014 Hunting Atlas is out. Please review a new copy of the 2014 WIA atlas as some changes in private land enrollment may have changed from last year.

The State of South Dakota Pheasant survey has been completed and you can find the results on the GFP website.

County	Pennington		
	Canadas	Ducks	Snows
NE	1	1	0
NW	0	0	0
SE	1	1	0
SW	0	0	0

Please remember to get the 2014 Hunting Handbook and read up on new changes for this year. Also, the 2014 Hunting Atlas is out. Please review due to changes in WIA land this year in certain locations.

Fall survey is still in progress. As of now the department is surveying deer. The State of South Dakota Pheasant survey has been completed and you can find the results on the GFP website.

Region 1 Wildlife Report

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Region 1 Wildlife Report

2014 Date: 12/9/2014

County: **Bennett/East Shannon/South Jackson**

Reporting Officer: WCO Tom Beck

Fishing Activity:

Ice conditions are very different for each pond lake with some having sufficient ice for fishing while others have open water leads in them. Please be extremely careful if going onto the ice as the warm weather has made ice conditions very treacherous.

Hunting Report:



Waterfowl – Still good numbers of Canadian Geese around, but the warm weather and full moon has made it difficult to hunt them. A lot of days they fly out in the afternoon, while some days there will be a flight in the morning also. Most are still going north across Highway 18, while there is still a fair flight heading east also. Still a few mallards around on the spring fed ponds and the open streams. They are pretty hard to hunt at this time though. For the bird watcher, there are quite a few trumpeter swans around the refuge area. Many fly out to corn fields to feed in the mornings.

Small Game – Pheasant and grouse hunting is still slow. Hunters report having good luck one day and absolutely no luck for the next. Everything seems to be weather dependent. Nice weather means the birds run and are hard to hunt. A few hunters are having luck on private lands, but public land hunting is pretty slow.

Big Game – Almost all of the elk hunters in the unit are filled. Hunting has been good north of Martin, but very slow in the eastern part of Bennett County. The muzzleloader deer season is ongoing. Please remember that this area is not open for the antlerless muzzleloader or archery tags this year.

District Report- The female otter and her offspring are still in the central area of LaCreek National Wildlife Refuge.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl – Quite a few Canadian Geese have arrived. Good flights in the morning going east and north from the refuge. Some birds going quite a few miles as I've seen birds going into corn fields southeast of Vetal. Many of the birds are going north of Highway 18 also. There are still some ducks in the area, but you may have to hunt the open water on the Little White River or Lake Creek to harvest them.

Small Game – Pheasant and grouse hunting is still slow. Hunters report having good luck one day and absolutely no luck for the next. Everything seems to be weather dependent. Nice weather means the birds run and are hard to hunt.

Big Game – Weather was the big story for the deer season. Those hunters that braved the weather found some deer and had luck. The bucks were not as plentiful as in the past or as big, but success was pretty good for those that put the time and effort into it. Elk continue to be hard to find in the eastern part of Bennett County while hunters continue to get elk north of Martin.

Land Report- A question that seems to come up every year is why we sign crop land into walk in hunting areas. The answer is very simple. Not every hunter out there is hunting upland game and needs CRP. Goose hunters want to set up decoys and hunt where the birds are feeding. That means cropland. Deer and antelope utilize the harvested fields for food and provide opportunity for hunters. Upland game utilize the stubble fields for food and provide additional hunting opportunities for those willing to walk them. Basically if we look at just signing up CRP, there will not be much walk in hunting opportunities as there simply isn't much CRP out there anymore. Only a percentage of landowners will sign up for walk in hunting. But, wildlife will not stay just on the CRP fields. They move daily onto the crop land fields to feed. Cropland which is near CRP often has game available for hunters. You just have to figure when they are in the fields to be successful.

Southern District

are still some deer out there, but keep your expectations low and you will not risk being discouraged. Please remember to ask permission and follow the big game hunting rules when hunting during the west river deer season.

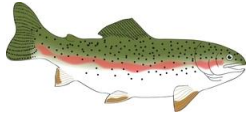


Date: 11/11/2014

County: **West Custer/West Pennington**

Reporting Officer: WCO Jacob Ehlert

Fishing: Deerfield- Fishing is slow.



Small Game: Rabbit hunters are doing well in the snow.

Big Game:

Black Hills Deer- Deer hunters are having great success. The mule deer rut it on. The whitetail rut is starting heavy. Hunters out in the snow found deer bedded on south faces in heavy timber. Midweek the hunting pressure is light, it's a great time to be out.

If you have a black hills deer tag the time to hunt is now.

District Report: This 4x4 mule deer buck was shot and left to rot near Spring Creek Road in Pennington County on 11/1/2014.



If you have any information please call TIPS at 1-888-OVERBAG or your local Sheriff's Office. Making the call can prevent poachers from stealing YOUR public resource!



Date: 11/10/2014

County: East Custer/South Pennington

Reporting Officer: WCO Ron Tietz

Fishing Activity: We will be building ice on the area lakes and ponds with highs in the single digits and some below 0 lows this week; it might be time to start thinking about changing line on the ice rods and tip-ups

Lakota, Bismarck and Horse thief lakes have all been drained for the fall and winter, some fish have been removed and transferred to other waters. Work on cleaning out the sediment should begin as soon as we get a hard freeze.

Big Game: Black Hills deer season opened on Saturday November 1st. Even if you are not a hunter it's a good idea to wear some florescent orange when out hiking, horseback riding etc.

The weather was very warm for the opening weekend but some hunters still had success. As always, this season just gets better as the deer move into the rut.

Now that we are getting some cold temperatures and snow fall, it feels more like hunting season.

West River deer season starts up this Saturday (November 15th) looks like we can expect highs to be in the mid 20's for opening weekend in the Custer area.

Small Game: Not much to report, some sharp-tail grouse hunting is available in the eastern portion of the district.

ESTIMATED WATERFOWL STATUS/OPPORTUNITY FOR CUSTER COUNTY:

County	CUSTER		
	Canadas	Ducks	Snows
NE	1	1	0
NW	0	0	0
SE	1	1	0
SW	0	0	0

County	Pennington		
	Canadas	Ducks	Snows
NE			
NW	0	0	0
SE			
SW	0	0	0

District Report:

There is a lot of traffic in the Black Hills with the deer season upon us. It seems like the number of road hit deer goes up this time of year as well. Be sure to slow down and scan as you are driving.

And as always, if you witness a wildlife violation, try to get as much information as you can and call your local Wildlife Conservation Officer or the tips hotline.

1-888-683-7224.

Date: 11/10/2014

County: **Bennett/East Shannon/South Jackson**

Reporting Officer: WCO Tom Beck

Fishing Activity:

A few trout are being caught on the Cedar Creek Trout Ponds. Please remember to stay on the trails and follow refuge rules when crossing their lands.

weather will freeze over the sandhill lakes and force the birds to either leave or head for the refuge. Ducks can still be found on the sandhill spring areas which stay open all year. Please remember to ask permission before entering onto private lands.

Small Game – Weather and crops continue to be the news when it comes to small game hunting. About half of the crops are harvested locally, but that still leaves a lot of standing corn and sunflowers for the birds to hide in. And, at this stage of the season, there are no dumb birds. Public land birds head to places of safety at sunrise and do not return to roost until dark. Private lands hunters had better luck finding birds to harvest. The cold spell will likely force birds to head for heavier cover and perhaps make them a little more accessible for those willing to brave the elements.

Big Game – Weather has the mule deer moving to their wintering areas. The rut looks like it is in full swing. As I mentioned before though, deer numbers are down. Do not expect to see large numbers of deer or large bucks. Both are pretty well gone. There are still some deer out there, but keep your expectations low and you will not risk being discouraged. Please remember to ask permission and follow the big game hunting rules when hunting during the west river deer season.



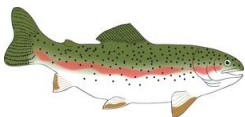
If you have any information please call TIPS at 1-888-OVERBAG or your local Sheriff's Office. Making the call can prevent poachers from stealing YOUR public resource!

Date: 12/9/2014

County: **West Custer/West Pennington**

Reporting Officer: WCO Jacob Ehlert

Fishing: Deerfield has 6" of good ice in the Gold Run and off of the Whitetail loop. The



central lake is still spotty for ice. Jigs with worms were working great for trout this weekend. Few people were out in the wind, but the fishing was excellent.

Big Game:

Most cow hunters have filled their tags. The cows are in the south part of unit 2, near Gillette Canyon and Custer Limestone in the burn. Deer have mostly moved south or are yarded up in the timber. Remember there are no muzzleloader doe tags in the black hills.

District Report:

The snow has been melting but wildlife has been moving to winter range.

If you have any information please call TIPS at 1-888-OVERBAG or your local Sheriff's Office. Making the call can prevent poachers from stealing YOUR public resource!

Date: 12/9/2014

County: East Custer/South Pennington

Reporting Officer: WCO Ron Tietz

Fishing Activity: There has been some ice fishing activity going on since a week before Thanksgiving but the ice conditions continue to vary as the weather keeps warming, be cautious when venturing out on the area lakes.

Lakota, Bismarck and Horse thief lakes have all been drained for the fall and winter, some fish have been removed and transferred to other waters. Work on cleaning out the sediment should begin as soon as we get a hard freeze.

Big Game:

Antlerless elk season is open with some hunters having success, the elk are in their winter herds at this time. Top Pin archery is a check point for elk in this area; they are located east of Custer. Muzzleloader deer is also in progress at this time and will continue until the end of the year.

Please be respectful of private property, we have been busy taking calls in regards to hunters trespassing on private lands this Fall.

Small Game: Not much to report, some sharp-tail grouse hunting is available in the eastern portion of the district.



ESTIMATED WATERFOWL STATUS/OPPORTUNITY FOR CUSTER COUNTY:

County	CUSTER		
	Canadas	Ducks	Snows
NE	1	1	0
NW	0	0	0
SE	1	1	0
SW	0	0	0

County	Pennington		
	Canadas	Ducks	Snows
NE			
NW	0	0	0
SE			
SW	0	0	0

Date: 12/9/2014

County: **Fall River**

Reporting Officer: WCO DJ Schroeder

Fishing Activity:



Fishermen should be very careful with the ice - - some of the bays are frozen - - but the ice is not very good. You should wait for better weather.

Hunting Report:



Small Game: I only saw a few pheasant hunters this week. Waterfowl hunting was pretty good on several of the days this past week. Mostly mallards and Canada geese in the area.

Big Game: The cow elk season is on and resulting in several successful hunters. Many are finding elk on both private and public access areas. The weather is very nice, so patience is required as the elk are not moving around as much looking for food. Archers and muzzleloaders are still going at it strong. The rut is over for the most part and hunters are now adjusting to the changing habits and patterns of the deer. Hunters need to review their regulations - - there are restrictions this year for the antlerless deer and a new unit for the Fall Turkey Season.

District Report:

Please take the time to record a license number and vehicle description when you witness a fish or game violation. Don't hesitate to call the TIP's Hotline or the local Sheriff's Office and report the violators. You will help us all preserve the sport!!

District Report:

There is a lot of traffic in the Black Hills with the deer season upon us. It seems like the number of road hit deer goes up this time of year as well. Be sure to slow down and scan as you are driving.

And as always, if you witness a wildlife violation, try to get as much information as you can and call your local Wildlife Conservation Officer or the tips hotline.

1-888-683-7224.

ESTIMATED WATERFOWL STATUS/OPPORTUNITY FOR FALL RIVER COUNTY AND WESTERN SHANNON COUNTY:

County	FALL RIVER		
	Canadas	Ducks	Snows

County	WESTERN SHANNON		
	Canadas	Ducks	Snows

appear to be going into the rut early this year. Bucks were really chasing the does this past week. Youth and mentored hunters seem to be more frequent this year. They should have some good opportunities out there this year.

Land Report:

Hunters are reminded to watch for the "off-road" travel restrictions while hunting on the State Game Production Areas, Walk-In Areas, and US Forest Service Black Hills and Grasslands properties. Hunters should also remember to be extremely careful with fire dangers this fall.



Small Game: I have been seeing a few more pheasants around this last week. Not sure if the weather or the crops coming out played the bigger role. Didn't see much for hunters this past weekend. We did have some duck and goose hunters. They had some success in areas. I believe the opportunities will increase with the cold weather putting the freeze on all the prairie ponds.

ESTIMATED WATERFOWL STATUS/OPPORTUNITY FOR FALL RIVER COUNTY AND WESTERN SHANNON COUNTY:

County	FALL RIVER		
	Canadas	Ducks	Snows

County	WESTERN SHANNON		
	Canadas	Ducks	Snows

ESTIMATED WATERFOWL STATUS/OPPORTUNITY FOR FALL RIVER COUNTY AND WESTERN SHANNON COUNTY:

County	FALL RIVER		
	Canadas	Ducks	Snows

County	WESTERN SHANNON		
	Canadas	Ducks	Snows

A few trout are being caught on the Cedar Creek Trout Ponds. Please remember to stay on the trails and follow refuge rules when crossing their lands.

Hunting Report:



Waterfowl – There are a few Canadian Geese around the area. They are spread across the area with some on the refuge and others on private lakes, particularly in the Sandhill region. The flight from the refuge every morning lasts only a few minutes at this time. Likewise, there are some ducks in the area and they are also spread across the private ponds and lakes. We haven't had any weather to move them lately so jump shooting has been the only way hunters were successful.

Small Game – Weather continues to be the news when it comes to pheasant hunting. Until recently, the weather has been warm and the pheasants hard to find. It has cooled off, but public lands pheasants are still hard to find. Many have moved onto private lands to avoid the hunting pressure. Others spend their days in the unharvested crop fields and not coming out until the end of shooting time. While the crops are slowly being harvested, the days of easy dumb birds are gone until next season. Expect experienced, hard to get within gun range birds if hunting public lands. I have seen a few more grouse lately as the sunflowers harvest proceeds. As the weather cools, more birds will start moving into the cropped areas from the Sandhills also.

Big Game – I've had quite a few inquiries lately asking where all of the deer are. Basically, we had such warm nice weather that most of the deer are spread out and have not yarded in their traditional wintering areas. Some deer may still be in standing crops. But we need to remember that it is a different deer herd now compared to past years. The EHD die offs of the last couple of years have reduced the number of whitetails and mule deer considerably. Deer herd dynamics have changed considerably with most of the herd

made up of young animals. This is especially true of the bucks. Don't expect to see large mature bucks this year. The majority in the population are younger bucks. There are little bunches of deer here and there, but not the big herds of the past. Public lands deer are few and far between as upland game pressure have either forced the deer to become nocturnal or moved them onto private lands. I strongly suggest that if you have a deer license for this area that you scout the area prior to the season opener and try to obtain permission on private lands. Public land hunting will be very competitive for a few nter conflicts, but fortunately the hunters won. A couple of local hunters have told me they quit taking their dogs out until it cools off and the snakes are down their holes as heat and snake bites were too real a concern to take them hunting. A lot of other hunters have evidently just quit going out until the weather changes as hunting pressure dropped considerably. Likewise, the number of nonresident hunters have dropped considerably. The ones that have stuck it out are reporting pretty good success, but they are working all day for their birds. The good news is that the corn and sunflower harvest is in full swing so the birds may not have standing crops to hide in down the road. Once the harvest is over, it may be pretty good hunting later in the season.

Big Game – The refuge deer hunters reported a very disappointing hunt/harvest. There were not a lot of deer in the refuge this last season. While deer numbers are considerably lower than in past years, the standing crops outside of the refuge attracted the remaining deer making for a very slow hunt. Hopefully as the crops are harvested, more deer will filter back toward the refuge. I say hopefully as I'm getting questions from locals asking if I am seeing any deer. While I have been seeing some and have made the same assumption that others have that the deer are in the corn and sunflower fields, I'm not seeing additional deer in those areas that have been harvested. There is so much cover and the weather hasn't been good for deer movements that I suspect as fall turns toward winter more will show. Once the rut starts and deer start moving, we should know more. While there were several elk harvested a week ago, this last week was move some additional animals in the next week or so. Traditionally, elk harvest will slow once the crops are out of the field so I'd suggest coming now if you have a tag.

District Report-

Big Game – I have found one more whitetail deer (a buck) which likely died of EHD. If you find any safety course planned for the nights of September 24 – 26 in Martin. Please contact Gary Rayhill or Tom Beck for more information.

Big Game – Several elk were killed last week. It is still tough hunting as most crops are still standing in the fields, but at least a few elk were in the area. The refuge deer hunt has been tough also. With all of the standing crops outside of the refuge and the die off of the

last couple of years, deer numbers inside the refuge are low and hunters are having some issues finding deer to shoot. I don't look for any change until crops are harvested this fall.

District Report: If you are going camping in the Black Hills Fire Protection District remember no open fires outside of designated campgrounds.

If you witness a violation please call TIPS at 1-888-OVERBAG or your local Sheriff's Office. Making the call can prevent poachers from stealing YOUR public resource!



District Report: If you are going camping in the Black Hills Fire Protection District remember no open fires outside of designated campgrounds. This has been an issue lately.

If you witness a violation please call TIPS at 1-888-OVERBAG or your local Sheriff's Office. Making the call can prevent poachers from stealing YOUR public resource!



with anglers.
the water.

Fishing Activity:



Not much to report on this week. I was busy with the hunting seasons and didn't get much of a chance to visit The high winds discouraged many from going out on
Date: 11/3/2014

County:

East Custer/South Pennington

Reporting Officer: WCO Ron Tietzort

Fishing Activity: There is some excellent trout fishing going on right now, Center , Legion and Sylvan lakes are producing some nice rainbows. Stockade Lake is good for pan fish and an occasional northern pike.

Lakota, Bismarck and Horse thief lakes have all been drained for the fall and winter, some fish have been removed and transferred to other waters. Work on cleaning the sediment out should begin soon.

Big Game: Black Hills deer season opened on Saturday November 1st, even if you are not a hunter it's a good idea to wear some florescent orange when out hiking, horseback riding etc.

The weather was very warm for the opening weekend but some hunters still had some success, as always, this season just gets better as the deer move into the rut.

Small Game: Not much to report, some sharp-tail grouse hunting is available in the eastern portion of the district.

Hunting Report:

Date: 11/4/2014

County: **Fall River**

Reporting Officer: WCO DJ Schroeder

Fishing Activity:



This last weekend produced a variety of fish at Angostura. Anglers had walleye, bass, and crappies in the live-wells. Fishing is spotty, but they are being harvested on a weekly basis.

Hunting Report:



Small Game: Hunters continue to have some success with the pheasants. The bird numbers are definitely down from a few years ago - - but more are showing up in the field and giving hunters a few more chances. It appears that the amount of cover out there will play a large factor in the harvest numbers for a few more weeks. Not seeing any grouse in the bag checks. It doesn't appear that they are that abundant in this area.

ESTIMATED WATERFOWL STATUS/OPPORTUNITY FOR FALL RIVER COUNTY AND WESTERN SHANNON COUNTY:

County	FALL RIVER		
	Canadas	Ducks	Snows
NE	2	2	0
NW	1	2	0

County	WESTERN SHANNON		
	Canadas	Ducks	Snows
NE			
NW	1	2	0

ESTIMATED WATERFOWL STATUS/OPPORTUNITY FOR CUSTER COUNTY:

County	CUSTER		
	Canadas	Ducks	Snows
NE	1	1	0
NW	0	0	0

County	Pennington		
	Canadas	Ducks	Snows
NE			
NW	0	0	0

Please take the time to record a license number and vehicle description when you witness a fish or game violation. Don't hesitate to call the TIP's Hotline or the local Sheriff's Office and report the violators. You will help us all preserve the sport!!

Date: 10/23/2014